



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division  
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

For Immediate Release: May 20, 2013

To: DHS-Licensed Family Child Care Home Providers, Group Child Care Home Directors, Group Child Care Center Directors, Infant and Toddler Child Care Center Directors, and Before and After School Care Program Directors

Subject: Hawaii Department of Health's Temporary Suspension of Tuberculosis Clearance Requirements

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) adopted Emergency Rules relating to Examinations for Tuberculosis (TB) on April 11, 2013. Under the emergency rules, DOH has temporarily suspended the provision of TB skin testing through the DOH TB Control Program for one hundred twenty (120) days. However, the DOH TB Control Program will continue to provide TB skin tests to those persons in the following "highest risk" categories:

- i. have had contact with another individual with infectious TB;
- ii. have symptoms suggestive of TB disease;
- iii. are newly arriving immigrants referred automatically through the federal immigration system Honolulu Quarantine Station;
- iv. are infected with HIV; or
- v. are immune-compromised due to disease or medical treatment.

The prioritization and limitation of the administration of the TB skin test affects all of our licensed Family Child Care Homes (FCC), Group Child Care Homes (GCCH), Group Child Care Centers (GCC), Infant & Toddler Child Care Centers (ITC), and Before and After School Care facilities (BASC) and children enrolled in these programs.

In light of the emergent situation, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has adopted Emergency Rules, effective May 20, 2013, relating to the DHS child care licensing requirements for Evidence of Child's Health, Providers' Health Standards, and Definitions under a new chapter, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) §17-897, a copy of which is attached. Under these emergency rules, certain providers and children in care will be screened for TB in a consultation with a health care practitioner, but not cleared by skin testing.

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Please note that the Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that their health care practitioners are not able to provide the initial consultations as to whether a caregiver or child falls into any highest risk category. DOH will only conduct further screenings of individuals who have been referred by private health care practitioners for those persons already assessed to fall into a highest risk category.

We have attached copies of the public notice that shall be posted at your facility or home as well as the acknowledgement form to be signed by employees, substitutes, volunteers, adults at the facility or home as well as the parent/guardian acknowledgement form.

The Department is especially appreciative of the coordination and cooperation your child care program has demonstrated in working with your child care licensing workers to continue to ensure the health and safety of the staff, caregivers, and children in your care.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jill Arizumi, Child Care Program Specialist, at 586-5240.

Sincerely,



Scott Nakasone  
Assistant Division Administrator

Enclosures